



# Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance

## Effective June 20, 2012

### What is the single-use bag ordinance?

Starting June 20, 2012 groceries, convenience and liquor stores, large drug stores and other retail stores will no longer be allowed to provide single-use plastic carryout bags at checkout. Retailers may provide customers with paper bags made with at least 40% post-consumer recycled content paper. Stores must collect from a customer a 10 cent mandatory charge for each paper carryout bag.

### What kind of single-use carryout bag is still allowed?

Paper bags that are 40% post-consumer recycled content and reusable bags specifically designed for multiple uses that meet ordinance requirements. Plastic "product" bags for produce, meat, greeting cards, etc. are not affected.

### How can I avoid paying 10 cents per bag?

Remember to bring reusable bags to the store or decline a bag when making a small purchase.

### Will the charge for paper bags increase from 10 cents?

Yes, the charge for paper bags will increase to 25 cents per bag in 2014, at the same time the City of San Jose increases its paper bag charge.

### Will any retailers or purchases be exempt from the ordinance?

Non-profit and charitable reuse retailers (i.e. thrift stores) are exempt. WIC and Cal Fresh "food stamp" consumers will also be exempt from paying the 10 cents.

### Why is the City of Sunnyvale banning single-use plastic carryout bags?

A high-quality reusable bag has the potential to replace over 600 single-use plastic bags over its lifetime, significantly reducing plastic bag use and impacts associated with producing, using and discarding plastic bags. Plastic bags are one of the most common litter items found in creek and roadside cleanups. Paper bags are also problematic, requiring 14 million trees to produce a year's supply for retail use in the United States. Shopping with reusable bags is a great way to take part in reducing litter and conserving natural resources.

### Reusable Bag Tips:

- Keep reusable bags by the door, in your car or near your keys.
- Keep foldable bags in pockets, backpacks and purses.
- Make sure to keep bags clean by laundering them in a washing machine or wiping them with a soapy sponge.

### Single-Use Bag Trivia:

- Plastic bags are not free. Their cost is passed on to consumers at checkout and taxpayers pay the price for litter-clean up costs.
- 19 billion plastic bags are used annually in California.
- The average "free" plastic bag has a lifetime of just 12 minutes, yet will spend over a lifetime as pollution.



For additional information, visit [Bringyourbags.inSunnyvale.com](http://Bringyourbags.inSunnyvale.com)  
or email [Bringyourbags@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us](mailto:Bringyourbags@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us)

